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SENATE VOTES TO BAN STATE INVESTMENT IN SOME MUSIC COMPANIES

By Peggy Fikac

AUSTIN (AP)—Taking a stand against songs they say poison young minds by degrading women and promoting violence, the Texas Senate voted Wednesday to bar state investment in companies promoting "gangsta rap" and similar music.

"We can't censor this kind of music," said Sen. Bill Ratliff, bill sponsor. "But we can say that we're not going to stand by and let the funds of the taxpayers of the state of Texas be invested in this kind of trash."

Recording Industry Association of America spokeswoman Alexandra Walsh said she knows of no state with such a law on the books. Ratliff's measure goes to the Texas House for consideration.

The recording group's director of state relations, Paul Ruscillo, said Ratliff's bill "is unwelcome, unconstitutional and plays politics with the pension income thousands of Texas state employees depend on."

The measure is vague and would violate free-speech rights, he said.

"The broad terms of the bill apply to hundreds and thousands of pieces of music... everything from Ray Charles singing, 'Let's Get Lost' to Johnny Cash singing 'Folsom Prison Blues' to Bob Marley singing 'I Shot the Sheriff' to opera too numerous to mention," Ruscillo said in testimony to a Senate committee.

A television station that broadcast the Lawrence Welk show which contained the "Beer Barrel Polka" would trigger divestiture," he said. The industry already has a program to alert parents to explicit lyrics, he added.

The bill by Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, would prohibit state investment in a company that promotes any musical work that describes, glamorizes or advocates acts of criminal violence, necrophilia, bestiality or pedophilia, illegal use of controlled substances, criminal street gang activity, degradation of women, and violence against a particular race or ethnicity group. Ratliff distributed examples of lyrics containing violent, vulgar, sexist or racist words to senators in folders marked "Warning. Contains offensive material" and sealed with a sticker.

The lyrics of songs performed by such acts as Snopy Doggy Dog and Nine Inch Nails were from music distributed by labels owned by Segram Co., Ratliff said. His bill would allow corporations that control at least a 10 percent interest in a music company as well as those that directly promote music.

Segram—parent of Universal Music Group, formerly known as MCA Music Entertainment Group—said in a statement that the company has a comprehensive review process in place.

After Ratliff first criticized MCA recordings earlier this year, Texas' public school trust fund sold a \$3.5 million investment in Segram.

When Ratliff asked other state university and pension funds about their holdings, the Employees Retirement System said it had a Segram investment worth about \$8.4 million as of Dec. 31. The University of Texas System said the Permanent University Fund and Long Term Fund had a combined ownership in Segram of \$3.8 million, or 35 percent of their \$7.5 million in investments.

The Teacher Retirement System holds assets valued at about \$6 million, according to a bill analysis.

Ratliff said he didn't know how many companies would be affected if the bill became law.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, noted that people may oppose companies for a number of reasons, such as discriminatory hiring practices.

"How do we distinguish... which lines we draw?" he asked Ratliff.

Ratliff said Texas should focus first on protecting children and that he hopes other states will join the effort.

"This is worse in many aspects than drugs," he said. "That young person's mind is going to be poisoned."

Sen. Mike Monroney, D-Port Worth, said, "Perhaps this is only a shot over the bow, but hopefully it is one that will be heard."

The bill won Senate approval on a voice vote. The music divestment bill is SB1923.

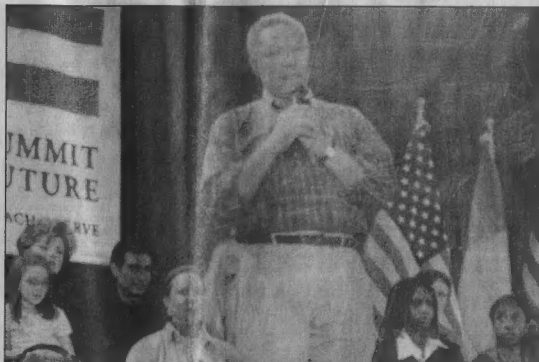
Summit Message: Mentor, Protect, Nurture, Teach, and Serve as One

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

PHILADELPHIA—The President's Summit on America's future kicked off Sunday with a goal to mobilize millions of citizens and thousands of organizations from all over the country in a spirit of volunteerism, one that seeks to secure the future of America's youth.

The Summit was organized by America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, a newly established non-profit organization serving as that organization and the Summit's General Chairman was Retired General Colin Powell, one who has been noted for his work for youth in the country in the past, but also regarded as one who has commanded the respect and admiration of many Americans across political lines. This was a Summit that breached beyond political and cultural divides, most evident by the involvement of the five living presidents who were also present. Former First Lady Nancy Reagan was there before

see SUMMIT MESSAGE/page 10



Retired Gen. Colin Powell addresses audience at the Youth Press Conference during the three-day President's Summit on America's Future.

Car insurance protest rally at statehouse

by Avery Grant

TRENTON—Nearly 1500 people attended the rally to protest high car insurance rates in front of the Statehouse in Trenton on April 23rd at noon.

Protest Rally Leader Leslie Hyatt, East Brunswick, greeted the crowd. "I am so happy that so many of you came out. I am a secretary, and I pay \$2400 for my car insurance, so I hope the officials will get the word that people are tired of high insurance rates in New Jersey." She said that over 116,000 people had signed the petitions from across the state and that she had an appointment for 2 p.m. to present them to Governor Whitman. Hyatt said that she was surprised by the governor's action yesterday, but, "it was political." She was referring to the press conference that Governor Whitman held at the Statehouse the day prior to "our rally that had been planned three months ago, particularly since for three years she has been campaigning to increase rates."

In a proposal made by The governor,

nor last January, drivers would be able to pick from four auto policies at a projected savings of 5 to 25 percent, with the biggest savings coming from policies that restricted a driver's right to file a lawsuit for pain and suffering. At yesterday's press conference, Governor Whitman conceded that she would not be able to get legislators to stand up against the trial lawyers in an election year, so she was scaling back her insurance reform proposal to focus immediately on reducing fraud and eliminating surcharges and automatic rate increases. Rally organizer, Hyatt said she was disappointed to hear of this more moderate approach. "Five percent (savings) is not substantial."

Wearing a "Reduce Rates Not Rights" button, Linda Semmons, Trenton said, "I came to let her (Governor Whitman) know that I am paying too much. I just cannot afford it. When my car was vandalized I was afraid to turn in a claim because I thought my insurance rates would go sky high."

Radio Station 101.5 FM joined with Hyatt a month ago to promote the rally and request for petition signatures.

Clinton Robinson, owner of an insurance business in East Orange, attended the car insurance protest rally at the Statehouse.

Jeff Deminski, a station commissioner, speaking to the crowd, said, "Leslie Hyatt is a symbol that one person can make a difference. When the Governor's office says that Leslie Hyatt is dead, they are saying that virtue, legitimacy and democracy are dead. Well you are here to say to Governor Whitman that we are not dead." He was referring to reports from the governor's office that there would be minimum response from the citizens to Hyatt's petition campaign and rally. Referring to the governor's new proposal to eliminate fraud, Deminski told

see INSURANCE PROTEST AT THE STATEHOUSE/page 10

Democratic committee vote questionable

PLAINFIELD—Despite protests from Democratic City Committee member Dorothy Gutekuauf, charging the meeting being held was illegal, members of the committee voted 17-2 Thursday evening to impeach Democratic Party Chairman Jerry Green replacing him in a second vote with city worker Johnny Walcott.

Green has been the subject of anonymous fliers and news letters attacking him and his practices, one of which announced this meeting at the Eagle Club, who donated their meeting hall free of charge. About fifty residents packed the hall to either participate, lend their opinions, or merely watch the emotion-filled meeting. Among the attendees were Agurs Catbarr, who is running for 4th Ward City Council and a number of past and present councilpersons.

The largest area of controversy recently has been an April 2 candidate screening process took place for who was to receive the party line, which is normally done by the committee members, who are elected by members in their community. Green invited 50 "guests" to the screening process, more than the 35 elected committee members, that were allowed to vote. Former Councilwoman Helen Miller, along with fellow committee members Robert Dixon and Brenda Gilbert, presided over the meeting, and said many residents felt Green stacked the deck, and wanted the impeachment to be held.

"We're not happy (with the)

"We're not happy (with) the direction of the Plainfield City Committee and Plainfield Democrats as a whole. That's why we're here tonight."

Former Councilwoman Helen Miller

direction of the Plainfield City Committee and Plainfield Democrats as a whole," she said. "That's why we're here tonight."

Gutekuauf, who said she was the committee's parliamentarian, took issue with the meeting being held, saying that it was illegal for the assembly to call the meeting one of the official committee, as explained in Section 5 of the committee's constitution. She charged that there is no petition that would officially call the meeting, which was filed with the recording secretary. Points were argued back and forth, with Gilbert asking where the parliamentarian was when Green violated bylaws and during the April

see DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE/page 10

'State Of Emergency' called by MMW Coalition

A statement by Lawrence Hamm, State Chairman of the New Jersey Million Man March Coalition says the New Jersey Million Man March Coalition will hold a State of Emergency People's Political Convention on Saturday, May 3, 1997, 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. at George Washington Carver School, 333 Clinton Place in Newark.

The Coalition is calling this convention in response to what they believe to be a "State of Emergency" that currently exists in urban areas throughout New Jersey. "The purpose of the Convention is to address the issues that are foremost in the minds of the people and to develop strategies for building the movement and organization that can further empower our community," a press release stated.

In 1995, the "Million Man March" called by Min. Louis Farrakhan had a tremendous impact on the American political system. It was a key factor in the 1.7 million increase in the number of black men who voted last November, which affected the outcome of both the presidential election and the race for the U. S. Senate.

The convention being called by the NMMMC will help to preserve the political gains we have made since the Million Man March of October 1995, and push us further along the path toward political unity, independence and power.

It will be the kickoff for the NMMMC's six-month statewide

voter registration drive, the goal of which is to register at least 10,000 new voters.

Besides scheduled workshops, the convention will also provide a forum for elected officials who wish to inform the community about important legislation or initiatives which address issues affecting our community. Candidates seeking office, particularly those who attended or supported the Million Man March, are encouraged to attend and announce their campaigns.

On May 3rd, they will ask convention participants to vote to declare a "People's State of Emergency" in response to the worsening conditions in our communities, which are not being adequately addressed by those in power.

The Coalition notes that unemployment, lack of affordable housing, deteriorating schools, hospital closings, crime, drugs, rising poverty, diminishing opportunities for youth, homelessness, high taxes, budget cuts, layoffs, wage freezes, plant closings, high insurance costs, police brutality, racism and discrimination are destroying our communities.

"At a time when our leaders should be united, vocal, strong, and resolute, many appear divided, weak, silent and confused," the statement read. "It is time for the people to come together and take our destiny into our own hands, and this convention can help make that happen. The convention is open to the entire community."

BPU adopted \$176million settlement with Bell Atlantic

NEWARK—The Board of Public Utilities adopted a \$176 million settlement among Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, the Ratepayer Advocate and the Board staff linking all of the state's schools and libraries to an advanced electronic network by the end of 2001 known as the Asynchronous Transfer Code (ATM). This settlement falls under Bell Atlantic's Opportunity New Jersey Program, and will pay particular attention to those districts identified as disadvantaged by the Abbott v. Burke funding decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court.

The network comes nine years sooner than the 2010 time frame originally targeted, and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Herbert H. Tate says it was important to accelerate the implementation, to be ready for the future development of technology, which is at a rapid rate in this area. He points to two different technologies, ISDN and Interactive Distance Learning Service (IDL), as examples of technology that eventually will become obsolete but nonetheless was being offered by the school. This ATM system is now state-of-the-art, he said. "This is the network that is in fact being offered solely to the large corporate clients that are not allowed to buy it. We got that state-of-the-art

"This agreement now has insured that Urban Enterprise Zones and school districts will be up front with the other school districts..."

system now to be delivered to all schools and libraries, plus we got the company to agree to discount between 37 and 52 percent of their business tariff rates...so they can make that system more affordable."

The ATM allows schools and libraries to have one integrated electronic system based on international standards to provide high quality broadband full motion video with voice and high speed data transfer. The system would bring long distance interactive learning to enable classrooms throughout the state to communicate with each other and with the worldwide web, Governor Whitman said. Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz both give the plan high marks.

The network will cost \$55 million to build, and will require Bell Atlantic to install up to 22 ATM switches throughout the state. The "special-needs" districts will be great beneficiaries to this program. 11 of the 30 already with IDLS. By the end of 1999, the remaining 17 will be connected to ATM, and any of the 167 schools already wired for IDLS will be allowed to upgrade to the ATM network with an additional cost or penalty to their districts.

Under the Urban Enterprise Zones, for which plans of Bell Atlantic to make the network available to them, have also seen those plans accelerated. "We did not want the urban schools, and certainly the areas of the inner cities to be bypassed," Tate said. "This agreement now has insured that Urban Enterprise Zones and (special-needs) school districts will be up front with the other school districts that have this technology delivered to its students and to its classrooms. We made sure that we just didn't build these systems in areas that traditionally could afford it and bypass them that couldn't afford it." The agreement may also result in 800+ jobs in the areas of customer service and installation over the year.

Tate feels that this technology will have an "enormously positive impact" on New Jersey education and students. Bell Atlantic will fund a state coordinator to inform schools of the state's available technology and with them and the Department of Education to determine the technology needs of the schools.

The reign of Mobutu is over in Zaire

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Eight years after the end of the Cold War, people in the so-called Third World — where the superpowers fought most of their battles by proxy — are still digging themselves out of the rubble. In most of these "hot spots" the precarious path to peace, rule of law, and democracy has been made bitterly difficult by the countries' devastated infrastructures, fractured societies, and by the failure of U.S. government to support democracy with the same enthusiasm (and money) with its "tough communism." But lately there have been signs that the ordinary people in these countries have had enough of the transition to democracy. They want democracy now. Last week's electoral victory in El Salvador by a democratic coalition opposed the fascist-leaning ARENA Party is one hopeful example. The imminent demise of the Mobutu dictatorship in Zaire is another.

With Laurent Desire Kabila's rebel forces in control of eastern Zaire — and extending their control over new territory each day — the end of President Mobutu Sese Seko's 31 year reign of

terror is no longer in question. The question being discussed in Zaire's nervous capital city, Kinshasa, these days is this: will the cancer-stricken President-for-Life die first, or live long enough to see himself overthrown by the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL)? Many Kinshasa residents are holding out for the latter scenario, and make no effort to hide their pro-Kabila sentiment, even as Mobutu's security forces take down their names.

Making a virtue of necessity, many in the U.S. foreign policy establishment are beginning to say that the ADLF's blitz against Mobutu's thugish and sorry excuse for an army is a

"welcome" development. Not the whole foreign policy establishment, by any means. Those still ensconced in the State Department must stifle themselves and hang tough with Mobutu, since that agency's Africa unit on automatic, and hasn't been adjusted since the 1960's "Congo Crisis." But many influential organizations and individuals are now releasing eloquent statements about "Mobutu tyranny."

This month of April marks seven years since the beginning of Zaire's "democratic transition", when Mobutu was scared enough by the collapse of the Berlin Wall to permit some limited political freedoms to his

people. Zairians rushed into this narrow opening and enlarged it. Two years after Mobutu's 1990 announcement that he would "permit" two additional parties to exist in addition to his ruling party, Zairians had forced the convening of a 2800 delegate Sovereign National Conference, the goal of which was none other than the drafting of a new constitution, the formation of a new transitional government, and the election of a new transitional parliament, all with the mandate of guiding the country to free elections by 1994.

But this astonishing display of national unity and common purpose was systematically undermined by

first the Bush, and then the Clinton Administration's refusal to back the democratic opposition. Instead, the U.S. government made clear its intentions to go on supporting Mobutu, and strong-armed the unarmed and poverty-stricken democrats into "power-sharing negotiations" with the armed and fabulously wealthy Mobutu regime. While their leaders were being dragged to the negotiating table, the rank and file militants were being dragged to prisons and torture chambers by Mobutu's fearsome civil guard. The "war" in Zaire did not start with Kabila's uprising last fall; rivers of blood have been shed for years by Zaire's brave democratic opposition.

"We haven't chosen armed struggle," said opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi to Radio France International in 1994. "We've chosen non-violence, and we are paying a price for that."

The ADLF's victories are changing the terms of the situation, but the cost of democracy is still being dominated in the lives of the Zairian people. With the movements led by Etienne Tshisekedi and Laurent Desire Kabila poised to meet each other in a liberated Kinshasa, we can hope that the Zairian people, weary and bloodied by the interminable transition to democracy, will finally prevail.

NNPA President outraged at Senate delay

WASHINGTON, DC—National Newspaper Publishers (NNPA) President Dorothy R. Leavell said she is "outraged and appalled" at the U.S. Senate's delay in voting on the confirmation of Alexis Herman as the new Secretary of Labor.

"We are very unhappy that the Senate, led by Senator Lott, has decided to postpone this action. Republicans have taken her nomination

hostage in matters related to this department," she said.

Ms. Leavell made the statement after Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss) announced that the Senate would not consider Herman's nomination until President Clinton clarifies policy requiring that federal construction contracts be performed by union labor.

"The Labor department has a pro-

found effect on African Americans, who are disproportionately affected in the area of employment. For Senator Lott and others to hold this nomination hostage is an act of double-racism when you consider the gender and the race of the person nominated. We are outraged and appalled," Ms. Leavell said.

The NNPA, whose 210 member newspapers reach more than 15 mil-

lion readers weekly, has, under Ms. Leavell's guidance, pushed for the nomination since it ran into trouble early in the year.

Despite the setback, Ms. Leavell said she is "looking forward to Ms. Herman being confirmed so that she can develop the programs we need to help us gain the employment opportunities that we are entitled to."

Meanwhile, Sen. Lott said he de-

cided to postpone the confirmation proceedings although he had clearance from 99 senators to proceed. Sources said there had been a number of objections from some senators about going ahead with the confirmation.

False arrest charged in \$25M Lawsuit by baseball player

NEW YORK—New York Yankee, star player, Cecil Fielder and wife Stacey Fielder, have hired nationally known attorney, Willie E. Gary of Stuart, Florida to sue the Brevard County, Florida Sheriff's Department for \$25 million.

The complaint is for illegal arrest, unlawful detention and battery.

Upon recently returning home from a celebrity golf tournament, sponsored by the Fielders, which raised approximately \$100,000 for local charities, Stacey Fielder was unlawfully

arrested when she stopped to inquire about her 10-year-old child, who was involved in an accident.

Without reasonable cause, Mrs. Fielder was deprived of her liberty, and against her will, was detained for several hours and was battered by police department personnel.

"Because my family is black and affluent, I feel that the local police department has unduly harassed us and it's time for us to put a stop to it," said Cecil Fielder.



Cecil Fielder of the New York Yankees and his wife Stacey look on as Willie E. Gary (at microphone) and Madison McClellan, associate attorney at the Law Offices of Gary, Williams, Paranti, Finney, Lewis, McManus, Watson, & Sperando discuss the \$25 million lawsuit filed by the Fielders against the Brevard County, FL Police Department.

Powell says racism still a serious problem in America

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Racism remains a serious barrier to equal opportunity in America, retired Gen. Colin Powell said Sunday in urging the continued use of affirmative action to help minorities.

Powell, co-chairman of the summit on volunteering that opened Sunday in Philadelphia, also said he's bothered by the effects that last year's law overhauling the U.S. welfare system will have on legal immigrants and others who may lose benefits.

"We may have gone too far both with respect to the legal immigrants and I think we will have to watch very very carefully in the months ahead to see whether or not we have ripped apart too much of the social safety net," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Powell, a Republican, has had fundamental differences with more conservative GOP lawmakers on the need for social safety nets and programs to promote minority participation in jobs, contracts and education.

"We've got to realize that the revolution is not over," he said of the drive to end discrimination in America.

"The suggestion that we've reached a point in this country where your skin color doesn't make any difference... it's fine if you are Tiger Woods or Colin Powell, (but) it doesn't mean the same thing to a young black kid in the inner section of Philadel-

phia."

He said that "color regrettably still makes a difference in this country. We still need the kind of programs that break down barriers. ... And that's why affirmative action is still so very important."

Asked about comments by Woods, the young golfing sensation who won the Masters Tournament, that he prefers not to be called black because he comes from a variety of racial backgrounds, Powell said: "In this country, which I love to the depth of my heart and soul, if you look like me you are still considered black."

Powell said that although he has white and Indian blood, "I'm a black American, an African-American, whatever rolls off your tongue most easily."

Powell said he hasn't thought much about whether the Census Bureau should create a new "multiracial" category for people such as Woods, whose father is black and mother Asian.

NAAACP president Kweisi Mfume, interviewed on ABC's "This Week," said the new listing "would make it difficult for federal agencies to track discrimination and to remedy it." He said, "The declaring of a multiracial person multiracial does not decrease the amount of discrimination they face."

"It puts people in an impossible situation," said Rep. Thomas Petri, R-Wis., who has proposed legislation adding a multiracial category on the census. "Why not accommodate them and let them be proud of being multiracial?" he said on ABC.



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City News 100 Most Influential

The reasons of Waco

Setting an example top down

Three presidents and more than 5000 volunteer gathered in Philadelphia this weekend to kick off the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, a major initiative to encourage people to get involved by volunteering and giving back to their community. Retired General Colin Powell, chairman of the event, believes we should especially focus on youth in need. We agree. Many of these young people have to learn the value of taking care of their community and how they contribute to community building.

We believe that the push to encourage Americans to get involved, with not only their community but to volunteer to help out wherever there is a need, is important for the future of America. We must bring the urban middle class, urban poor as well as new immigrants into the understanding of volunteering to make their community better. By some of the most powerful men and women in America helping to clean up and fix run down neighborhoods, it gives credibility to volunteering.

Just maybe some of the elected officials in New Jersey urban communities will accept the challenge and launch initiatives to help clean up their communities. Not one African American elected official, that I know, has initiated an effort to beautify or clean up their ward, district, or city. If we are wrong, we want you to tell us we are wrong and which elected official is out there making a difference. If we are not wrong, we want you to tell us what you intend to do to lead the charge of making our communities clean, safe and livable. We will be reporting on the mayors, councilmen, councilwomen, and community organizations who take up the challenge.

Say what you mean and mean what you say

By Hal Bock
AP Sports Writer

Poor Fuzzy Zoeller.

All those stuffy folks listening and watching him carefully position his foot and place it directly in his mouth didn't get the joke.

Standing in the shadow of the landmark oak tree at Augusta National on the last day of the Masters, Zoeller casually tossed out a racial stereotype about Tiger Woods and people got all bent out of shape.

Woods was tearing up the golf course of Antebellum America, where until a few years ago people of color were barred from membership, and where more of them still lug clubs than swing them. Zoeller was asking what he thought.

And then he didn't think. Zoeller told CNN, "That little boy is driving well and he's putting well. He's doing everything it takes to win. So, you know what you guys do when he gets in here? You put him on the back and say congratulations. You enjoy it and tell him not to serve fried chicken next year. Got it?"

Then he snapped his fingers, turned to walk away, and decided to do the ancient throwaway line, saying, "Or collard greens or whatever the hell they serve."

Isn't that a real thigh-slapper, isn't it? Good of Fuzzy. Always quick with the quip.

When somebody suggested that the remarks might not be in the best of taste, Zoeller went into spin control.

"My comments were not intended to be racially derogatory, and I apologize for the fact that my remarks were misconstrued in that fashion," he said in a statement.

Misconstrued?

What part was misconstrued? The part about "boy"? The part about fried chicken and collard greens?

What exactly did he mean? Help us construe them, Fuzzy.

"People who know me know I'm a joker," Zoeller said. "I just didn't deliver the line well. I'm in a no-win situation. Accept my apology, please. I apologized to Tiger. I apologized to anyone I might have offended."

Not good enough, decided Kmart, which dropped Zoeller as a corporate spokesman in the aftermath of the affair.

Kmart called the comments inappropriate and offensive, which seemed pretty accurate. Regardless of the context, they are contrary to Kmart's

longstanding policies that ensure our words and deeds are without bias," the company said.

Nothing else could be misconstrued.

Zoeller also pulled out of the week's PGA Tour event, the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic, choking back tears as he explained that the uproar was unfair to the other golfers and that he wanted to apologize personally to Woods before playing again.

Woods released a statement Thursday saying the remarks had "shocked" him but that he accepted Zoeller's apology.

A statement at humor was out-of-bounds, and I was disappointed by it," Woods said.

This is not the first time some poor sports figure has had his words bounce off him.

Late in the NBA season, New Jersey Nets coach John Calipari became angry over a less-than-complimentary observation that Dan Garcia of the Newark Star-Ledger wrote about him again.

Since truth is the best defense for libel and the Nets finished 26-56, Garcia was on pretty safe ground. Calipari still objected and called the reporter a "Mexican idiot."

About the time Garcia reported the remark to the league, it occurred to Calipari that there might be a good-taste problem here, and the coach began backpedaling.

"I would like to apologize to Dan Garcia for my ill-advised attempt at humor and insensitivity for the remark," Calipari said in a statement.

In retrospect, I can understand how the remark could have been misinterpreted.

And Calipari's remark was misinterpreted. Exactly which part of it?

Mexican? Idiot? Or the preceding expletive that was deleted?

"I have apologized to Dan personally and in writing, and in no way was my intent to be derogatory in a racial context," Calipari said. "I am sorry for any pain my remarks have caused."

Not good enough, decided NBA commissioner David Stern, who nailed Calipari for \$25,000, the stiffest fine ever imposed on a coach.

Everybody who reads the NBA should understand that racially insensitive or derogatory comments are not acceptable," Stern said.

And there was no misinterpreting that. So the message for Zoeller and Calipari and their brother. As I listened, most folks are taught as kids. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Or be prepared to pay for it down the road.

By Dr. Lenora B. Fulani

I remember quite vividly fuming on the television four years ago and watching coverage of a shoot-out between FBI agents and members of a religious group, the Branch Davidians, in Waco, Texas. Less than two months later, I watched again along with millions of shocked Americans as FBI agents ended the 54-day standoff by assaulting the Branch Davidians' home, Mt. Carmel, with tanks and tear gas, which resulted in 76 deaths. I watched the Attorney General defend the attack on the grounds of evidence of child abuse (which never materialized) and the President of the United States call the Davidians fanatics who had committed suicide.

What has happened since? Mt. Carmel, or what was left of it after the fire, was razed to the ground. Five survivors of the assault were sentenced to 40 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter and weapons violations, three others were convicted of lesser crimes and three others were

acquitted of all charges. Congressional investigations yielded virtually no changes in law enforcement procedures, although prominent academics and specialists in religion and psychiatry, who had been asked by the FBI to assist in reviewing its handling of the Waco incident had called for them. In particular, their criticisms stemmed from the ATF's and FBI's ignorance of, misreading of and intolerance of nonmainstream religions.

This failure to protect the rights and lives of citizens to freely practice the religion of their choice was the sign of a monumental breakdown, not just in enforcement of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but in the commitment to tolerance that was a founding principle of the nation, albeit one that has been violated at past moments of social and economic instability. The Davidians, therefore, had been viewed as a religious group, because "cult." Much of the liberalite, which generally toots its defense of the First Amendment, refused therefore to respond to the systematic constitutional violations. Still, these forms of demonization and stigmatization seek to die hard in

America. Why? Because they provide an explanation of events that makes them appear as isolated aberrations, rather than signs that something more fundamental may be ailing. In the last 25 years, however, 160 and 2,000 nonmainstream religions have emerged, an monumental jump over any previous period in American history. Why? Some argue that the collapse of a coherent American vision and community has produced the impulse to find new ones.

In the rootless environment of postmodern America, the breakdown of vision, of meaning and of community can be an overwhelming force. Sometimes after breakdown produces the bizarre and destructive as was the case with Heaven's Gate. It also produces the kind of biased explanations like "mind control" and "cult" which cannot be used to the deeper moral and social problems our country faces.

Lenora B. Fulani twice ran for President of the U.S. as an independent, making history in 1988 when she became the first woman and African American to get on the ballot in all fifty states.

"Louis Farrakhan and the white conservative"

Dr. Manning Marable

Politics makes strange bedfellows. Consider the case of Louis Farrakhan. Two years ago at the Million Man March Farrakhan symbolized for many, a strong black challenge to white authority. But even then there were signs that many white Republicans were comfortable with Farrakhan's message of self help, entrepreneurship and social conservatism.

The budding romance between Farrakhan and white conservatives of the state of Tennessee was made explicit at a luxury retreat in Boca Raton, Florida. Farrakhan was the guest of Jude Wanniski, an influential rightwing economist who has served as an advisor to both Ronald Reagan and former Vice-Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan. The guest list at Wanniski's gathering read like the directory of white conservatism: Robert Novak and Rowland Evans, conservative columnists; House Budget Chairman John Kasich; and Republican Senator John

Aschroft.

Robert Novak, a bitter opponent of both affirmative action and civil rights in general, cooed like a nestbox to the Million Man March. Novak wrote that Farrakhan "was knocking on the Republican Party's door," and argued that "some response might be appropriate."

It is understood that in the context of the Million Man March, "Minister Farrakhan has been branded an antiSemitic and no repudiation of bigotry by him will suffice. He is viewed with such loathing by the Jewish community that any effort to talk with him to pursue racial harmony is prohibited." Yet from the standpoint of white conservatism, Novak and others have recognized that Farrakhan shares many of their reactionary values. For example, black conservative radio commentator Armstrong Williams praised Farrakhan's emphasis on self-help, declaring to Novak "He sounds like us."

However, the real story behind the Boca Raton meeting was far more complex than the recent headlines revealed.

What was really at work was a convergence of parallel interests, rather than a political marriage. White conservatives and the Million Man March because both parties recognized they can use each other for their own respective purposes.

Let us try to interpret this event from the perspective of Minister Farrakhan. The Million Man March of October, 1995, was unquestionably the largest public gathering of African Americans in US history. The NAACP and establishment politicians clearly fear the legitimacy and reach they can lose if they alienate their own people. Farrakhan should have become a major US figure at that time, because no other public leader could have brought one million people into the streets anywhere in the world.

However, Farrakhan was unable to consolidate any lasting political capital from this massive event. The National African American Leadership Summit headed by Chavis proved to be badly organized and ineffective.

There was little political follow-up with the hundreds of local march organizing committees.

Outside of the black community a number of both liberal and conservative leaders still refused to have anything to do with him. The Nation of Islam's (NOI) private security firm had been pushed out of contracts protecting public housing projects with the Federal government. Farrakhan and NOI women were off the talent list barred from campuses. Indirectly, black leaders who have had dealings with Farrakhan in the past were severely pressured to denounce him. The best example was Kwame Mfume, head of the NAACP. When Mfume was a member of Congress it was not unusual for him to visit the local NOI temple in Baltimore. Mfume himself, as head of the Congressional Black Caucus, had endorsed efforts to build unity between black elected officials, the NAACP then led by Benjamin Chavis, and the NOI.

To be continued?

Women's Statue "Chiseled in Racism"

by Aaskia Muhammad

If ever there was a lesson in how to permanently alienate a potentially ally, then the proposed relocation of the statue of Sojourner Truth was it. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott, at the U.S. Capitol is a textbook example. Those women are all White.

The controversy revolves around moving the statue from its present location to the original "Crypt" near the exit from the Capital Supreme Court Chambers, to the Rotunda, one floor up. The "Crypt" takes its name because it is a place above an eye-catching tomb built for the remains of President George Washington.

Dozens of Black women's groups are pitted against White women who want to move the statue. The white marble sculpture, until proper recognition of Isabella Baumfree, the slave who chose "Sojourner Truth" as her "free name" is included in any recognition of American women who advanced the cause of equality.

Just looking at the sculpture, tells me the Black women are right. There's a blob of unchiseled stone behind the three women that doesn't resemble any woman. It was left that way, says because the racial climate 76 years

ago would not tolerate the inclusion of a Black woman in the country's history, without the image of Sojourner Truth. Black women rightly proclaim that the controversial sculpture is "chiseled in racism."

It is unfortunate that groups like the National Museum of Women's History, would be so careless in their own reading of history that they would overlook both the facts, and a sad racial precedent, all in the name of correcting an historical injustice.

Sojourner Truth does deserve a place of honor in the pantheon of the women's movement. She earned her status as one of America's true "sheroes."

Not even a casual reading of feminist history in the 19th Century can miss the great contribution of Sojourner Truth. The twin causes for which she is remembered, are "abolition and feminism." Indeed, when Ms. Stanton and Ms. Anthony were 6 and 11 years old respectively, Ms. Truth had already won her own freedom and had staged a sit-in demonstration.

Sadly, a similar dispute over race and gender weakened the feminist movement in the post Civil War era, and then again in 1921 when the statue was first given by the National Women's Party to the U.S. Congress

to commemorate women's suffrage. If it had been told, the country's women's movement has always been at odds with Black men especially, and with Black women, who invariably stood by their men, over which should be fought for "first," racial equality and women's equality.

In fact the 1860s Elizabeth Cady Stanton was so contemptuous of the lower class classes, and of uneducated Black men in particular, that she broke ranks with the Republican Party and its Reconstruction agenda, joining on with the Democrats, the segregationists.

Ms. Cady Stanton deplored the prospect of "degraded and oppressed" freed Black men voting, describing it as an "incoming tide of ignorance, poverty and vice." In another instance she said it was disgraceful that "Patrick and Sambo and Hans and Yung Tung," might one day make laws she might have to obey, referring to the people she described as the "dregs of China, Germany, Ireland, and Africa" who were polluting the American body politic.

Then again during the fight in Congress for the 19th Amendment to allow women the right to vote in order

to win the votes of Southern segregationists, the rights of African American women were sacrificed.

Now today, it's Black women, not the broader White feminist movement, which enjoys the more universal support.

Groups as varied as the American Friends Service Committee Quakers well as the conservative Family Research Council, groups including Jewish women, women in the labor movement, Black Democrats and Black Republicans have promised the profane, are all rallying to this cause.

The reason is that activist C. Delores Tucker has struck a resonant chord, as when today's Black men and women, boys and girls look around and see that Sojourner Truth has been left out of this history, then we wonder, why aren't our own mothers represented?

Facing that kind of personal insult, Black folks are quick to recognize that Sojourner's 1851 plane rings true again. She bore 13 children, and was still made to pull a plow. She fought for the rights of all, speaking eloquently on behalf of women as well as slaves, so...when a statue is raised to commemorate the progress made in America by women...ain't she a woman?

CITY NEWS

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Publisher

Henry C. Johnson Ph.D.

Executive Editor

Jan M. Edgerton Johnson

Director of Advertising Sales

Henry C. Johnson

Contributing Writers

Aaskia Muhammad, Sharon Vincent,

Avary Karm, Jerenne Johnson, Sonia

Kimble-Elly, Bill Reed,

Darley Jenkins

Composition & Layout

CJ Johnson

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Serving the African American community for 13 years

By Ken Morgan

I was at a meeting of the Hartford Community College board of trustees when I heard voices around me whisper, "Did you hear?" "They robbed a bank down at Bards Hill shopping center today?" One person said, "One of the bank robbers killed himself and they caught the other," another chortled.

Bards Hill is located a stone's throw from the college, but I thought no more of this little conversation around me.

Then, I got home that evening however, I saw the familiar face of Terrence Johnson, on the television screen. It turned out that he was the alleged bank robber, and he allegedly killed himself, after the cops had confronted him and his brother. As I listened my mind wound my memory banks, replaying my history with Terrence Johnson. I paced from room

to room, wanting to cry, but at the same time brimming with anger and rage.

When you are Black with some consciousness, you learn to be skeptical about police accounts in violent encounters towards Blacks. You also learn to be skeptical about the accuracy of the media media that usually blindly accepts the police accounts, including continuing with sensationalism, embellishment and confirming shallow inaccurate, out of context reporting. (Read Malcolm X: The Last Speeches on these matters.)

In 1978, I felt a similar anger and rage. This time the media had reported that a 14-year-old Black teenager had shot two cops from Prince George's County, Maryland (bordering Washington, D.C.) in cold blood. Thousands of supporters in the Washington, D.C. area and nationwide felt differently. We all demanded freedom for this victim, who had survived police brutality. I was one of the central organiza-

tions of the support group to demand justice for Terrence Johnson.

The truth was that in 1978, Prince George's County cops arrested two young brothers, one a 14-year-old youth named Terrence Johnson. They took Terry to the police station for questioning, a place then known for routinely "bashing in Black heads." One officer took him in the back room where he was being brutally beaten, including continually being kicked in the groin with his pants pulled down. The 115-pound youth fearful for his life, defended himself and shot the brutalizer with his own revolver. Now even more terrified, and trying to escape the wrath of another officer, he shot him two shots. Charged originally with two counts of first degree murder, he got 25 years, 15, for possession of a handgun and 10 for one count of involuntary manslaughter. He was acquitted of one shooting. A partial victory was won by the masses. Still, the 15-year-old served 16 years, for

just being a courageous Black youth defending himself against police brutality.

Johnson was released from jail two years ago as a result of community pressure. The normal time for persons sentenced for the crime "rimmed" on his mind was seven years, yet he served 16 years. While incarcerated, Johnson had earned his GED, a barber certificate, a computer certificate, an A.A. and a B.S. degree - all with honors. I often saw and chatted with him, when I taught at the Patuxent prison where he was held. He remained strong, and when he got out, we remained in contact, though I had not spoken with him since last summer. But I knew he was in law school and had participated in many number of community activities, including helping to organize the Million Man March. He also co-hosted a program on a local radio station. I had decided to give him a call recently, but had not gotten around to it before his death.

While Terrence seemed at first to have managed to overcome many of the conditions set upon our youth, too many do not. They are still in the caldron of oppression and racism that creates desperation and hopelessness for our young.

As with our young, a growing number of Black young women. Whether innocent or guilty, most are spewed out, ground down and pulverized even more than they were when incarcerated, they are placed back into this dog eat dog economically generated social system where profits always come before human needs. Often they are victims, though portrayed as de-bauching criminals deserving of their plight, or depicted as unable to adjust or shake the streets because of some personal fault. Terrence was saddled with the latter two labels as he struggled to put his life together.

Whether or not Terrence committed a robbery has no connection to his death.

800 TERRENCE'S DEATH PAGE 8

Woods' victory met with insensitive comments

By Daryle Lamont-Jenkins

Tiger Woods' April 13 victory in the Masters recently has resulted in a some controversial responses, one from a fellow golfer, and another from the Cape May County chapter of Republicans.

Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller recently apologized for remarks about Woods on the day he scored his victory, calling him "that little boy" and urging him not to request "fried chicken...collard greens or whatever the hell they serve" at next year's Champions Dinner. These remarks cost him golf sponsorship of Kmart and he has also withdrawn from the Greater Greensboro (NC) Classic, an event he played in for 21 consecutive years. NAACP President & CEO Kweisi Mfume released a statement saying the remarks "demonstrate a lack of respect not only for Mr. Woods, but for people of color everywhere." "It is unfortunate and discouraging that in 1997 we have to deal with this level of intolerance," Mfume said. "While most Americans have been inspired and proud by the achievements of Mr. Woods, Zoeller's remarks remind us of the untold story of golf that too many of us grew up with, elitist and exclusionary." Woods has since accepted his apology, saying he has played with him and knows he is a jester. "At first I was shocked to hear that Fuzzy Zoeller made these unfortunate remarks," Woods said in a statement. "His attempt at humor was out of bounds and I was disappointed by it."

"I know he feels badly about the remarks," Woods further stated. "We all make mistakes and it's time to move on."

Cape May County Republican Party Chairman David Von Savage said he will "absolutely not" apologize for an item in their newsletter that the Cape May County chapter of the NAACP. The item was titled "Tiger Woods: Reaction? Youth, Looks, Excellence, Humility And a black with traditional two-parent household," with the last part underlined. The item itself read: "Tiger attributes his success to dear ol' mom and dad and his upbringing. Liberals respond to all this? Oh, Tiger's just lucky to have a mom and dad! Lucky? Nothing about the merits of two parents."

John Cavichio, president of the Cape May NAACP, was particularly offended by the emphasizing of Woods being a black man from a two-parent household, charging the GOP with bringing the politics of envy and entitlement, that debilitates the family. "What are they trying to imply, that blacks don't have black parents?" he said. "This is the stuff we're fighting all the time. You don't make those kind of statements in public. If he wants the black vote, he's got to treat us with respect."

"This is bull—, a cheap headline," said an angry Von Savage. Earlier, he defended the item as congratulating Woods and applauding the two-parent household. "A rising tide lifts all boats," he said. "It doesn't matter what color the boat is. Get 'em off the plantation, get 'em off the reservation."

Woods himself was interviewed on the Oprah Winfrey Show, and noted that he is of mixed heritage. He said he refers to himself as a "Caucasian"—A term that incorporates all those ethnic backgrounds. He also said he would mostly consider himself African or Asian, the heritages he was raised with.

"Party Without a Permit" Successful, say organizers

NEW BRUNSWICK—Over the span of ten hours, over 700 students rallied at Brower Commons the campus of Rutgers University, at an event dubbed "Party Without a Permit." April 16. The rally was sponsored by the Coalition Against the Fair Permit, an organization formed to fight a recently passed ordinance in the city that requires a \$20 permit for persons holding parties of 50 or more in which money is collected.

According to a press release, the Coalition is also claiming a victory after the City Council made public new guidelines to regulate the enforcement of the ordinance, exempting businesses, educational or religious events held by local organizations, and all events taking place on Rutgers property. "This new development is a first success for the Coalition since the City Council has significantly restricted the application of the ordinance," the release read.

Union County Sheriff's uncover weapons cache

UNION COUNTY—Sheriff Ralph Froelich announced today that Officers from his agency confiscated a cache of 65 weapons during the service of a Domestic Violence Restraining Order. On Thursday April 17, 1997 Sheriff's Officers Dave Perno and Patrick Grady reported to a home on Renner Avenue in Union to serve a Temporary Restraining Order and confiscate any weapons found at that address. The resident at this location surrendered two firearms and advised the officers that the subject of the restraining order had relocated to his parents home on Norwood Terrace in Elizabeth. Further investigation led the officers to believe that there were a large number of weapons stored at the Norwood Avenue address. The officers reported their finding to Superior Court Judge Melvin Whitten who amended the order to include the removal of all weapons from the Norwood Avenue location. A search of the Elizabeth residence uncovered 42 weapons and 27 ammunition magazines. Some of the magazines confiscated were for loaded and contained ammunition for assault rifles.

On Friday, April 18, 1997 an examination of the confiscated weapons and magazines led the officers to believe that there were additional weapons that had not been discovered during the search of the Elizabeth resi-



dence. Judge Whitten issued another amended Temporary Restraining Order that granted permission to search the Norwood Avenue address and a business located on Amboy Avenue in Elizabeth.

Two search teams of 8 sheriff's officers led by Lt. Vincent Manning and Sgt. Richard Cederquist responded to the Elizabeth locations. Twenty three additional weapons were found hidden outside in different locations in a yard at the Amboy Avenue business location. Three of these weapons, a 9 mm Uzi, a 45 cal Thompson Sub Machine Gun and Ruger mini 14 are all classified as assault weapons. Another weapon a 22 cal semi auto-

matic pistol had a defaced serial #. The owner of the business, a 49 year old male who is the father of the subject of the restraining order, was arrested and charged with 3 counts of unlawful possession of assault firearms and 1 count of possession of a defaced firearm. He was placed in the Union County Jail. Bail was set at \$15,000. The names of the parties involved have not been released to protect the identity of the Domestic Violence victim.

Sheriff Froelich explained that it is the regular policy of the courts to order the confiscation of all weapons when a domestic violence incident is alleged to have occurred in a household. This order extends to all weap-

ons, even firearms that may be registered to other family members. These measures are taken in an effort to insure the safety of the Domestic Violence Victim.

"I believe firmly in the Constitution, and the right to bear arms. This incident however demonstrates the absolute need for a more effective means of gun registration and control. One family had 65 firearms in their possession. Three of these weapons were illegal, one was defaced and 4 handguns were found fully loaded. There is no reasonable purpose for an assault weapon other than to kill or commit mayhem. We've seen the destruction and human carnage these weapons can cause in incidents that occurred in California and Texas. Storage of a loaded gun is an invitation for disaster. How many guns does a person need? How often do we read about children who are killed or injured when they find loaded firearms."

Domestic Violence is one of the greatest challenges facing Law Enforcement today. Society must do everything it can to insure the protection of the family. The legislature must work closely with Law Enforcement officials in the development of effective laws that meet constitutional standards but protect the rights of the victims to live without fear.

Researchers examine kids' attitudes toward tobacco

WASHINGTON—Government researchers wanting to know why African-American girls were staying away from cigarettes have uncovered some common-sense reasons: It looks bad, it smells bad, and their parents would hit the roof.

Statistics for the past few years have shown a wide gap between the smoking rates of African-American and white youths, but until recently the reasons were a bit of a mystery.

The new findings were presented at the Sixth Biennial Symposium on Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer.

One focus-group study by Dr. Sherry Mills of the National Cancer Institute found that kids were savvy about advertising and sometimes thought it was stupid.

Mills showed one of her focus groups a Virginia Slims ad, depicting a smart, attractive black couple obviously having a good time by a coral. There were horses and saddles, and the man in the ad was wearing a cowboy hat.

She said the kids laughed out loud.

"The reason?" "Brothers don't ride horses," they said. To them the ad showed two out-of-place black people acting out what white people thought was fun.

That's not the only advertising gimmick that missed its mark among African-American high school students.

"The tobacco paraphernalia—the T-shirts, caps, jackets, and other stuff carrying the logo of one brand of cigarettes or another—so popular among white kids are less-than-cool among their black peers."

"The black kids said that was tacky and cheap," Mills said.

But Lovell Jones, a co-founder of the symposium, is concerned that the tobacco companies won't give up, and a federal court decision lifting some recently imposed restrictions on tobacco advertising gave him little cheer.

"The cigarette industries will continue to be free to use existing and new marketing techniques to convince minority youth to smoke," said Jones, a professor at the University of Texas

MD Anderson Cancer Center. "The tobacco industry will not be free to increase the number of billboards and other advertisements aimed at minorities and the medically underserved."

While smoking rates among African-American youths remains below that of whites, the rate of young black people has been increasing over the past couple of years.

A later, larger focus-group study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that anti-smoking sentiment was strongest among black girls, whose smoking rate has been actually declining over the same period.

"African-American females were aware from all other groups as well of smoking as risky," said Robert G. Robinson, acting associate director

for minority health at CDC.

They also told researchers they didn't like the way cigarettes made them look or smell, and thought they would interfere with their ability to attract boys.

African-American kids also told researchers they'd get in big trouble with their parents for smoking. The same wasn't true of white kids, said Robinson, whose parents seemed more likely to throw up their hands at the idea of their children becoming smokers.

The symposium has drawn cancer experts from around the country to examine scientific and social factors affecting cancer rates among minorities and the medically underserved, whose cancer rates are significantly higher than those of the general population.



ATTENTION residents of Monmouth County



THE MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS HAS CREATED A FAIR HOUSING OFFICE AND APPOINTED A FAIR HOUSING BOARD

The Monmouth County Fair Housing Board has been established by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to provide policy and guidance on compliance with State and Federal fair housing laws and regulations to protect the rights of all Monmouth County residents. The Fair Housing Office will provide the following services:

1. Coordination of a county-wide approach to ensure fair housing for residents.
2. Establishment of an intake and screening procedure for discrimination complaints. Services will include assistance and counseling on procedures for filing a complaint, help in completing the complaint form, and review and verification process.
3. Provide general information and assistance on housing problems, and when necessary refer clients to other agencies that are funded and staffed to handle a specific housing problem, including referral to the New Jersey Department of Civil Rights.
4. Education, training and technical assistance to individuals, groups, agencies and/or organizations.
5. Acquire and coordinate assistance of New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for verification of discrimination practices and negotiating settlement for fair housing problems.

The office will provide service and assistance to the general public however, we have targeted the following groups as our highest priority:

MINORITIES, HANDICAPPED, HOMELESS, SENIOR CITIZENS, FAIR HOUSING GROUPS, CONCERNED HOME/APARTMENT LEASE GROUPS, HOMEBUILDERS, REALTORS, LENDING INSTITUTIONS, AND MUNICIPALITIES

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
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(908) 431-7490

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING

Alston Exec. for the day



Left to right are NHA Chairman Rolando Velazquez, Vivian O. Alston and Executive Director Harold Lucas

NEWARK—The Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) honored the achievements of Vivian O. Alston, 70, who was designated "Honorary Executive Director" as part of its annual celebration that highlights the contributions that senior citizens have made to the development of Newark, NHA Executive Director Harold Lucas announced today.

The program, which was held Thursday, April 10, 1997, 10a.m. in the NHA's Board Room, 57 Sussex Avenue, featured Ms. Alston's "official swearing in" by Mr. Lucas, Mr. Lucas and NHA Chairman Rolando Velazquez also presented a plaque

and a proclamation to Ms. Alston in honor of her achievement. As part of the day's festivities, Ms. Alston was feted at a luncheon in her honor which was enjoyed by her family and friends.

A resident of the NHA's Millard Terrell Homes, Ms. Alston received the honorary title for being one of the top contestants in the Newark City-wide Living Legacy Fashion Extravaganza, sponsored annually by the NHA, the City of Newark and a host of other community organizations and businesses as a way of for the honor and her family and friends.

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Business Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

PLAINFIELD—A free SBA company assistance seminar will be held at the Plainfield Library. For more information, call 908-527-2946.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

WEST WINDSOR—"Business Goes to College" conference at Mercer County Community College. For more information, call 609-586-4800, ext. 283.

PICATINNY ARSENAL—5th Government Procurement Exposition at US Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center. For more information, call 201-648-6950.

JERSEY CITY—The recently founded Labor Party is holding its first meeting in the Fine Room of the Ukrainian Community Center. Attendance free. For more information, call 201-659-4021.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

NEW YORK—African Affairs' annual Awards Luncheon and Conference at Pitzer Inc. For more information 212-673-2385.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

READING, PA—General Meeting of the Delaware Valley Minority Business Resource Council. Sponsored by GPU Energy. For more information, call 215-893-9977.

SOMERSET—2nd Annual Small Business Conference at the Somerset Marriott. For more information, call 908-725-1552.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Millennial Fever," sponsored by the Direct Marketing Association. For more information, call 212-768-7277, ext. 1688.

MONDAY, JUNE 4

NEPTUNE—RBP Small Business Outing III at Jumping Brook Country Club. For more information, call 201-242-8237 ext. 222.

Cleaver to mayors: cities are 'national disgrace'

By Jim Selter
AP Business Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver is urging mayors across the country to lead the push to revitalize American cities, calling them "a national disgrace."

Crumbling infrastructure, high crime rates and a general sense of hopelessness are problems faced by cities across the country, Cleaver said. He blamed the federal government for some of the problems.

Cleaver is president of the National Conference of Black Mayors, and was the keynote speaker Thursday at the group's annual meeting

here. About 2,000 people are expected at the conference, which continues through Sunday.

Federal cutbacks and economic policies that "reward suburban growth over urban renewal" have hastened the demise of the cities, Cleaver said, noting the problem is uniquely American.

"All around the globe, except in the United States, the wealthier the individual, the closer they live to the center of town," he said. "We've reversed that in the U.S. We are experiencing a great depreciation of cities."

Cleaver said that in 1979, Kansas City received \$20 million annually in federal revenue sharing funds, \$20 million in Community Development

"Over three days we collected 1,100 tons of trash. We did that to inspire the people, to say to them, 'Look what can happen when we work together.'"

Block Grants, and funding through Urban Development Action Grants.

"Today, there is no revenue sharing, CDBG is half of what it used to be, and UDAG grants are in the cemetery," he said.

Expectations for mayors are too high, Cleaver said, especially for black mayors.

"We are the hopes and dreams of African-Americans when we go into office," he said.

And while the mayors can't solve problems by themselves, they can lead by example, Cleaver said. He cited a Kansas City program in which the city volunteered trucks to help neighbors clean up a garbage-ridden neigh-

borhood.

"Over three days we collected 1,100 tons of trash," Cleaver said. "We did that to inspire the people, to say to them, 'Look what can happen when we work together.'"

The National Conference of Black Mayors represents 417 mayors from cities big and small. The organization provides management and technical assistance to black mayors.

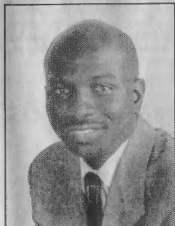
Other highlights this week will include a speech by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner today, and a "Tribute to a Black American" award to Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph E. Lowery on Saturday.

Is sexual harassment suit against Armstrong Williams a publicity stunt?

"They must be preparing for a book deal," say the people who've heard about the controversial case filed by Attorney Mickey J. Wheatley against black conservative columnist and talk-show host Armstrong Williams. "It must be 'open season' on people who have broad name recognition. We see that it smacks of the same types of theatrics orchestrated to castrate and constrain Justice Clarence Thomas," said Rev. Ingeance Stewart, one of the group who observed the press conference, called by Wheatley at the front door of the D.C. Superior Court. "It's sad, but tearing down celebrities has become an obsession in this city and we must stop it before it takes over our entire society," cautioned Rev. Stewart.

In comes as no surprise that Washington, D.C., with such a pre-

dominance of lawyers, has become the breeding ground for lawyer, client and bookseller "get rich" schemes. But the relevant question facing all of us as a result of Mr. Wheatley filing a suit against Armstrong Williams sexually harassed a male employee: "Has the filing of lawsuits and fleeing of people of fame, or stature, become the modern way of making a living?" How many high-profile people in entertainment, politics and the media are being measured and set-up to be fodder? The whole of American society should be alarmed at the havoc being wrought by an emerging industry that allows individuals who've associated with high-powered people, such as Dick Morris and Gennifer Flowers, to generate court cases and lucrative book deals? All people who know the truth about Armstrong Williams, his public



Armstrong Williams

and private persona, and statements he has made for years condemning homosexuality, say it's time to investigate such sensational actions and charges and ask important questions about how and why they come about.

"For one African-American man to attempt to harm another that is legally and lawfully trying to make his way causes many black people in Washington concern about the caliber of our internal support systems and the external forces that continue to employ divide and conquer tactics on us," said Stewart, who has formed the "We Support Armstrong Williams Committee." Close examination of Rev. Stewart's comments should give people aware of the lawsuit reason to pause and ponder facts obscured by the type. The dramatic courthouse press conference, with all the trappings of an ACT-UP demonstration for Gay-oriented issues, was coordi-

nated and called by Attorney Wheatley. In a departure from the normal practices of Washington's high-priced lawyers, Mr. Wheatley, a white man, incurred the expense of circulating press releases to the media, prepared and filed the court suit, used office materials and equipment and hosted the press conference, all "pro hono" for Steven Gregory, an African American who would have had to work almost a decade to gross the \$250,000 demand of Armstrong. Does Wheatley, who has a long history of being an advocate of Gay rights and initiating cases on behalf of Gay have his own interests in attempts to emascuate Mr. Williams? Wonder how much of the requested \$250,000 was to go to Wheatley, and how much was Gregory to receive? Williams says he did not respond to pre-lawsuit letters from Wheatley because they amounted to "extortion."

Records will reveal that hundreds of harassment suits are filed in courts and with federal and local equal employment opportunity agencies each day. Isn't it unusual to hold a press conference regarding such matters? How many do file such suits, how many do it for no cost to the client? In this case, it's reasonable to ask, "Who is leading who?" And, who is destined to get what out of the publicity generated with such a case? All parties with informed opinions of Steven Gregory say that, in the past, he has exhibited more intelligence and pride in himself and his race to perpetuate such actions and allegations against his own kind. So, who is leading this media circus, is it Mr. Gregory

or his lawyer?

"It's unbelievable," says Gleanice Matthews, a Maryland clerk typist who met Mr. Williams at an awards program in his honor and was selected to be a panelist for a subsequent television show featuring Mr. Williams. "I don't really know him that well, but the way those people did what they did makes me think something stinks here," says Ms. Matthews, a single mother of two. "It should cause every American to shudder when they think that someone who holds a grudge against them can find a lawyer, who will file a suit against them and create this kind of havoc in their lives. We have become the most litigious society on the planet, and now no one is safe," says Attorney Mary Co.

What happened between Armstrong and Steven Gregory? "Nothing," says Mr. Williams to the sensational charges. "He worked for me like over twelve other male employees in the past ten years," states Williams. "The allegations are false, baseless and completely without merit. Mr. Gregory was terminated in 1996 for cause. It is nothing short of amazing that someone, knowing my background, knowing how I was and continue to be Justice Clarence Thomas' most vocal defender against the spurious sexual harassment charges of Anita Hill, could suggest that I would put my reputation in jeopardy in such a manner," said Mr. Williams in a statement made April 10, 1997. "I just want to get my good name back," says Williams.

Clinton aide among speaker at black McDonald's franchisee convention

OAK BROOK, IL—Alexis Herman, assistant to President Clinton and director of the Office of Public Liaison, was the keynote speaker at a luncheon sponsored by the National Black McDonald's Operators Association (NBMOA). The organization of more than 300 African-American franchisees met recently in Cleveland, OH, for their annual convention, theme "Changing With Change." Herman joined such hitlers as William Gray, 111, president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund; and Martin Luther King, 111, Fulton County (GA) commissioner. Collectively, the NBMOA represents the nation's economically strongest organization of African-American entrepreneurs. Herman (third from left) is shown with NBMOA past presidents from left to right: Ken Ross, Suttland, MD; Fran Jones, Los Angeles, CA and Lee Dunham, Fort Lee, NJ. Not shown is Carl Osborne, a past president who resides in Gahanna, OH.



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Caps	5%	Caps	2% annual 5% lifetime

Rate subject to possible one-time increase after 10 years

3/1 ARM 30 Year Term		1-Year ARM	
Rate	6.875%	Rate	6.125%
APR	8.050%	APR	8.220%
Maximum Loan	\$1,000,000	Maximum Loan	\$1,000,000
Monthly Pmt Per \$1,000	\$6.57	Monthly Pmt Per \$1,000	\$6.08
Caps	2% annual 5% lifetime	Caps	2% annual 5% lifetime

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BillBoard

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

TRENTON—Bob McGrath (Sesame Street) and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at The Crescent Theatre. For more information, call 1-800-ALLE-GRO.

NEW YORK—Michael Hill's Blues Mob at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-369-BLUES.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

WESTBURY—Lou Rawls/Nancy Wilson, 8pm at the Westbury Music Fair, Brush Hollow Rd. For more information, call 516-334-0800.

NEW YORK—Billy Branch and the Sons of the Blues at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-369-BLUES.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Presentation, "Using Heroes in Design History," at Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-4333.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

RED BANK—Bob McGrath (Sesame Street) and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra at the Count Basie Theatre. For more information, call 1-800-ALLE-GRO.

HYDE PARK—Bus trip to Vanderbilt Mansion sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey. For more information, call 201-538-9950, ext. 133.

NEW YORK—Mason Casey at Manny's Car Wash. For more information, call 212-369-BLUES.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Concert celebrating 20th Anniversary of the Preparatory Center for the Arts at Memorial Auditorium, Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-4443.

First African American found suitable for a major gaming license

CARSON CITY—Robert L. Johnson, CEO and Chairman of BET Holdings (NYSE: BET), the parent company of Black Entertainment Television (BET), announced today that the Nevada Gaming Commission has found him suitable to hold a gaming license as a director in the Hilton Hotels Corporation. Johnson thus becomes the first African American to be approved by Nevada as a director of a major public corporation. Public corporations account for approximately 75% of Nevada's gaming industry.

In November of last year, BET Holdings and Hilton Hotels Corporation announced their plan to explore the feasibility of building a BET Soundscape Casino in Las Vegas that would be targeted toward the more than two million African Americans who visit the city each year.

We are very excited about this gaming opportunity and look forward to providing a unique brand of entertainment to African-Americans who visit the entertainment capital of the world each year," said Johnson.

R&B DEBUT WINS CRITICAL, COMMERCIAL PRAISE FOR BADU

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Talking with Erykah Badu about the smash success of her debut album, "Baduizm," she seems so mellow and unfazed by the attention that you wonder if she ever gets excited at all. So it's somewhat surprising to hear a simple phone call can make her all after—until you find out who the phone call was from.

"Let me tell you this. STEVIE WONDER called me... Y'all could tell me I'm the worst thing that happened ever, and it doesn't matter," she says, laughing. "Stevie loves me."

Of course, Stevie's not the only person who loves her. Badu has become the darling of critics since she burst on the scene this year with "Baduizm," a mixture of R&B, funk, and jazz that has breathed new life into a sometimes stagnant and repetitive urban music scene.

But unlike other artists who are hailed by critics and ignored by fans, music buyers have been snapping up her album, and the first single, "On & On."

"Baduizm," which debuted in February, was shipped to record stores platinum, an unusual feat for a new artist.

While Badu says she's pleased by all the success, she's not surprised, because she says she planned it, with a little help from above.

"I'm one of the first ones in a while to come with something from the deepness of the soul, and when you come with something true, people feel the truth," she said.

"We came to the label (Kedar Records) like we were doing them a favor. You have to really believe in it, and if more than one person believes in it at the same time, it's bound to



happen. There's no stopping what the creator has planned."

Just over a year ago Badu, a 26-year-old graduate of Grambling State University in Louisiana, worked three jobs in her hometown of Dallas—a teacher during the day, a nightclub performer during the evening hours, and a waitress during the nightshift to help pay the bills.

She landed opening performances with hip-hop acts like Naughty by Nature and Method Man before the manager of the group Mob Deep sent her demo tape to an industry insider, Kedar Massenburg, who was just about to start his own label at Universal Records.

Once he saw her perform live, he says Badu "just blew me away."

"The fact that she sounds so different, her voice, it just cut through the rest. It wasn't like she was trying to be what was going on today... She had this whole jazzy flow," Massenburg said.

In fact, her voice has often been compared to Billie Holiday—though Badu says her strongest musical influence was actually hip-hop.

"I never really studied jazz, but I felt and desired the emotion of that time. I think my vocals were affected by that era, definitely."

Badu, who describes herself as a very "left brain" person, embodies the kind of free-spirit, Afrocentric vibe that her record exudes. Typically adorned in African-inspired garb, she often lights candles and incense onstage; while performing, she manages to be both low-key and electrify-

ing at the same time.

Badu was born Erica Wright, but when she reached her teen-age years, she decided to change her name to the "slave name" to become more in tune with Afrocentric culture.

However, her search for a name hit a major obstacle—her mother.

"My mother said to me, 'Well, that's what I named you. No master was involved in this,'" Badu recalls.

"So I said all right, I'll just change the spelling, to find meaning so I could find peace within me."

"The 'kah' is the inner self which can not do wrong. And just to change the kah in Erica gave me meaning and gave me my energy, and I use that energy every single day."

She chose the last name Badu because it was a common jazz scat that she uses, but later found out from her father that in Islam, the meaning of the word means "to manifest truth."

"Badu" is me and "izm" is we but "Baduizm" are the things that make me feel good and I want to share those with you," she said in explaining the album's title.

Now that her message has reached mass appeal, Badu admits that she'll miss that underground buzz that she enjoyed as an up-and-coming artist.

"I always wanted to be an underground person because I respect the underground culture a lot more because that's where it comes from," she said.

(But) just to reach so many children and families and households that need this music, that's a grand accomplishment."

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEF

TV

NY'S B. SMITH JOINS WNBC'S LIVE AT FIVE FOR MAY SWEEP

New York, NY—New York restaurateur, former supermodel and television personality B. Smith joins WNBC's "Live at Five" this May sweep, presenting a weekly series of exclusive feature stories on the latest trends and tips for looking good this summer.

Smith kicks off her series on April 24 with a look at summer shoe fashion; for work and play. Additional features throughout the month include reports on bathing suits for the not so perfect figure, shopping for summer shades and how to tone up your legs without exercising.

Smith adds television host to her list of accomplishments when "B. Smith With Style," a weekly half-hour lifestyle series, debuts on WNBC this fall.

MCA to reissue four original Hendrix albums

UNIVERSAL CITY—Remastered for the first time from the original 2-track masters, MCA Records is

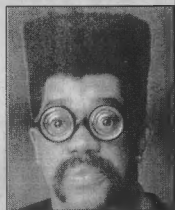
set to reissue the three Jimi Hendrix studio albums released during the artist's lifetime: Are You Experienced, Axis: Bold as Love, and Electric Ladyland as well as First Rays of the New Rising Sun, the closest representation possible to the album Hendrix was recording at the time of his death in September, 1970. This special album compiles 17 songs long out of print, including six tracks which make their CD debut.

CLUB SCENE

CAMEO SET TO BRING IN DA FUNK AT CLUB BENE'

Raging Bull Recording Artists, Cameo, will be appearing in concert at the Club Béné Dinner Theatre, located on Rt. 15 in Sayreville, on Sunday, May 18.

Cameo is primarily Larry Blackmon, Tomi Jenkins and Nathan Lefebvre. For further information to reserve tickets call 908-727-3000



State Theatre Shares Storyteller

New Brunswick, NJ—Storyteller Dylan Pritchett is the 1997 Bristol Myers Squibb Artist Residence at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, May 8-15. In a program emphasizing community outreach and audience development, Pritchett will take his African and African-American stories to a variety of locations in central New Jersey (see attached schedule). He will also lead a professional development workshop for teachers, on Monday, May 12 at 4:00 p.m., offering creative ideas for using storytelling with students. The residency ends with a free public performance at the State Theatre on Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m.

A nationally recognized storyteller specializing in African and

African-American folktales, Dylan Pritchett began a 20-year association with Colonial Williamsburg at the age of eleven as a member of the Five and Drum Corps. As an adult, Dylan (pronounced DIE-lan) was appointed African-American Programs Specialist, and in this capacity he researched, wrote, and trained Colonial Williamsburg's staff to present programs depicting 18th-century African-American life. Since 1980, he has been a full-time storyteller, taking his folktales to hundreds of schools throughout the country. Through his professional association with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Mr. Pritchett has also developed programs for teachers on using storytelling in the classroom.



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Seacoast Missionary Baptists ordain first female minister

by Avery Grant

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS—Girdle B. Washington, Neptune, became the first woman to be ordained as a minister in the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association, in an ordination service in St. Paul Baptist Church, Atlantic Highlands.

Rev. Gerald Schenck, moderator of the 32-member church association, told the congregation, I am happy and blessed that this (ordination of a woman) came on my watch. I am thankful that the Lord permitted us to be a part of this. I welcome you Rev. Washington, and we need you.

The capacity crowd heard Rev. Roben Perkins, presiding clergy and chairman of the Permanent Council of the association, say, "If you wait on the Lord, then when God gets ready it happens. You are well prepared. When you came before our Council, you were bold, you appeared to dare us to ask you a question that you didn't know." Continuing he said,

This certificate of ordination says something, but it (your ordination) was recorded in Heaven a long, long time ago. Some said that this might would never happen, but when God says it is time, it is time. Rev. Washington, you are a child of God, called by God."

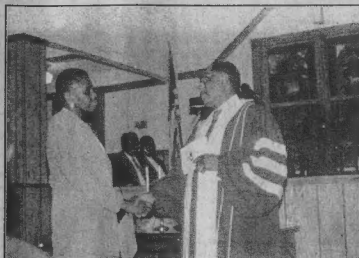
In her remarks, Rev. Washington, said, "To God be the glory for all that has transpired here tonight. And to all of you thank you, for making it happen. And for all the things that have happened over the past nine years, I thank God for my staying power." Quoting from the fourth chapter of Philippians, she said, "I also thank God for the model and image (herself) that he has put before our young girls. My reluctance (to enter the ministry) was partly because I had never seen anyone in the ministry that looked like me, and partly because I feared to carry such a heavy mantle."

Rev. Washington received a standing ovation and praise as she spoke bluntly about women having been denied their rightful access to the min-

istry, and also the denial of this (female) ministry to those who make up eighty-five percent of the church membership. She served her held ministry requirement while attending seminary at the Martin Luther King Jr. Presbyterian Church, Neptune, I thank God for Rev. Vernon McGowan, the pastor, who gave me a refuge during my time in the wilderness." Referring to the change of minds and hearts, she said, "I thank God for my pastor, Rev. Henry P. Davis, Jr. who changed his mind and heart on women in the ministry, and made a public proclamation of it."

Rev. Davis, pastor of the host church, came out of the pulpit to hug her, "I thank God for you, Minister Washington. I can shout right now. Thank you for persevering and thank God for your family. We are living in perilous times and we need you. Our work is cut out for us."

After the service, Rev. Davis was asked about the basis for not ordaining women minister, and he said that there was no actual biblical prohibi-



Rev. Henry P. Davis Jr., pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, congratulates Rev. Girdle B. Washington after being ordained. She is the first woman to be ordained as a minister by the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association.

tion, it was just a male thing."

Rev. Washington will continue as assistant pastor at St. Paul Baptist Church. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Fordham University, and her Master of Divinity De-

gree from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She is employed as a Family Counselor at the Community YMCA Family Services, Manasquan. She has been married for thirty years to George W. Washington, Neptune.

Terrences' death

continued from page 4

killing the two cops in self defense when he was 15. It does however, have a connection to causes and conditions motivating and facilitating his actions and spending half of his life in jail for a crime he did not commit.

What we must do to address the problems and rid ourselves of the conditions that killed Terry and continue to kill our youth is chronicled in a speech Malcolm X gave in 1964. It captures what committed me to participate originally in Terry's case. His death helps me to reaffirm my commitment. Malcolm said.

"And in my opinion the young generation of whites, blacks, browns, whatever elsewhere there is, you're living at a time of extremity, a time of revolution, a time when there's got to be a change and a better world has to be built, and the only way it's going to be built is with extreme methods. And I for one will join in with anyone. I don't care what color you are, as long as you want to change the miserable conditions that exist on this earth."

Listen to the still voice within

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

Most African-American homes contain at least one Bible and it is the one book the majority of our people can get their hands on in short notice. This being the case, I will use it to introduce a great truth that can enhance the quality of our lives immeasurably.

Find a Bible and turn to 1 Kings Chapter 19. Read verses 11 and 12 in

the Old Testament. Believe it or not, these two verses contain an important lesson for modern living. To set the stage, the text centers around Elijah, a man who was used by infinite wisdom to gain a great victory over Ahab, Jezebel and the prophets of Baal.

Queen Jezebel was furious at being shown up and sent word that she would kill him. Elijah became fearful and despondent. He felt lonely, unappreciated and deserted. The Cre-

ator provided for Elijah, kept him safe, fed him, nurtured him and allowed him to regain his strength, courage, direction and purpose.

Elijah was then instructed to stand on the mount of Horeb to prepare to meet the Holy One. He did so. A great wind arose, so fierce it tore the rocks. But God was not in the wind. Next came an earthquake, followed by a fire but God was not in the earthquake nor the fire. Then came a still small voice. Elijah heard it and within that still small voice communed with God.

To often we limit Omeny to the narrow confines of our theology, our expectations, and our cultural and personal experiences. Africans in America have been deculturated, deracialized and conditioned to think in left brain, Eurocentric, materialistic terms. Like the Europeans, we make a distinction between the mundane and the spiritual. In traditional African societies there is no such dichotomy. African people (those who retain their

African spirituality) realize that we can have access and contact with the spirit world. Africans understood divinity permeates all things and that there are lessons and messages to be learned in nature, in social interaction, prayer and meditation.

Now western science tells us we live in a virtual sea of energy and vibration. It permeates our being but is beyond the awareness of our five senses. African people have known that for eons. We need to expand our awareness into the realm of the extraordinary. We must understand that oneness is always active in our lives. We need to know that God does his best work in the stillness and quiet! The Sun shines in silence, the grass grows in quietude, healing takes place in the stillness. We can't hear our cells multiplying and growing because the process is noiseless. All this is the work of divine intelligence. Winds and

hurricanes make noise, but we can commune with infinite wisdom in the silence. Rejuvenation and regeneration are silent processes.

Yes, we can get information from others. Yes, there are times when external direction, reassurance, validation and guidance are necessary and welcome. But the primary direction comes from within during the times we are attuned to that still small voice of intuition. No problem is too large or too small to escape the attention of oneness. Another biblical text says, "So faithful the Lord is in all he does, so gracious in all his dealings. The Lord draws near to every man and calls upon him, will be but call upon him with a true heart. Utter but the wish, you that fear the Lord and he will grant it, will hear the cry and bring aid." Psalms 144:18-20 (Knox translation) [The Hebrews were a male-dominated patriarchal society. Most refer-

ences to their god were in the masculine form. Africans on the other hand, understand there are both masculine and feminine aspects to all things.]

Where does this voice come from? It comes from within us. This is totally consistent with the reality that the "Kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20). You don't have to go to a church, temple, mosque or pagoda to experience divine guidance. You don't have to be a member of a particular denomination, sect or religion to contact God. All it takes is a sincere heart, an open mind and faith. The next time there is turmoil, anxiety and agitation swirling all around you, get quiet and listen for the still small voice of wisdom. Learn to differentiate the voice of intuition from the chatter and clutter in your mind. Separate it from your ego, trust it and heed its direction. As another text says, "He still and know (experience) I Am God."

Chavis criticizes effort to terminate ministerial duties

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former NAACP leader Benjamin Chavis criticized a recommendation to defrock him as a Protestant minister for joining the Nation of Islam.

"The God who called me to the Christian ministry is the same God who called me to the ministry of Islam," Chavis, who now uses the name Benjamin Chavis Muhammad, said Friday.

It was his first public statement since a commission of the United Church of Christ voted on Thursday to recommend his termination as minister for joining the black Muslim sect. Chavis, ordained in 1980 as a minister in the Cleveland-based church and former head of its Commission on Racial Justice, announced in February that he had joined the Nation of Islam.

He did not notify UCC officials before making the announcement.

Finding that he had left the Christian faith, the church temporarily suspended him last month from preaching, administering the sacraments or performing other pastoral duties for the 1.5 million-member denomination.

During a Friday news conference here, Chavis argued that he never left his Protestant church and did not need its permission to join Minister Louis Farrakhan's sect.

"There's only one God," Chavis said. "The God of Judaism and the God of Christianity and the God of Islam is the same God."

Chavis appeared with Nation of Islam security guards at a mosque that serves as the group's Western regional headquarters.

Chavis said he intended to speak Sunday at both a United Church of Christ pulpit and a mosque here, despite the church's ban on preaching. The Rev. Madison T. Schockley II, a longtime friend and pastor who invited Chavis to speak, said the minister would not be "preaching" but engaging in a "dialogue" with members at the Congressional Church of Christ Fellowship.

Members of the Church and Ministry Commission of the UCC's Eastern North Carolina Association decided in a split vote in Durham, N.C., that Chavis' adoption of the Islamic faith was incompatible with his standing as an ordained Christian minister.

The association's board of directors will make the final decision on

Chavis' status in May or June.

Chavis also was embroiled in controversy at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He became executive director in 1993 and was fired the next year after disclosing that he had allocated more than \$330,000 in NAACP funds to settle a sexual discrimination case against him.

Chavis has been a frequent Farrakhan ally and helped organize his 1995 Million Man March in Washington.

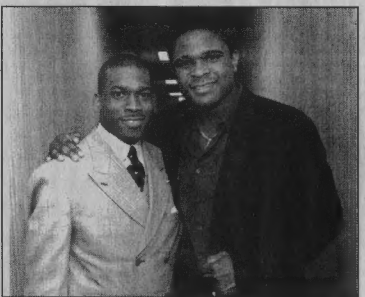
At the news conference, Chavis, 49, vigorously defended the Nation of Islam and Farrakhan against allega-

tions of anti-Semitism and said he did not believe that Iran or Libya, which have been friendly to Farrakhan, support terrorism, as charged by the Clinton administration.

"The Nation of Islam does not have history of anti-Semitism. That's an unfair, unsubstantiated allegation and charge that's always brought up," Chavis said.

"I can only assume he didn't do his homework," responded Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, which tracks anti-Semitism worldwide.

Stop the Violence start to love



Motivated by the murders of Ennis Cosby and rapper Christopher Williams/Biggie Smalls (aka Notorious B.I.G.) and Tupac Shakur, which reflect violence that is so prevalent in America, the NAACP called for national Peace. The movement, which included a series of Nationwide rallies titled "STOP THE VIOLENCE-START TO LOVE," was led by the charismatic, 24 year old Reverend Jamal Bryant, who heads the NAACP College & Urban cities in New York, Mi-

ami, Boston, ect. Darius McCrary, who stars in the hit ABC TV sitcom, family matters was one of the guest speakers. He announced that initially he had a prepared speech but the moment was so moving he would rather speak from the heart. He reminded everyone that the youth of today has been labeled "Generation X," which means unknown, and that it was up to the youth of today to change that opinion and become known in a positive light.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NO. 04/57200
HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE
CITY OF ASBURY PARK, NEW
JERSEY

COMMISSIONER RUCKS sends the following resolution
COMMISSIONER LESINSKI seconds the following resolution

RESOLUTION
BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park, New Jersey that for its Fiscal Year April 1, 1997 thru March 31, 1998, the Housing Authority shall, and the same shall be a legal holiday, in which case, said meeting shall be held on the second Monday of the month. The Public Hearing will be held on the 7th day. The Board will meet in Executive Session from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. The Board will hold a Workshop Session from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will thereafter immediately following Workshop Session. The Regular Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Board of Commissioners' Conference Room, in the Administrative Office, located at 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to the "Open Public Meeting Law" that the public may be present at all Regular Meetings and shall have the opportunity to participate in and be heard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park, New Jersey that the Annual Meeting of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park shall be held during the second week of April, within the date, time, and place shall be delivered to the Asbury Park Press, the Courier, and the City News, at least seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the above Annual Meeting are: (1) for annual organizational and reorganization of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park; (2) to compile and disseminate a schedule of the Regular Meetings to be held by the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park during the upcoming Fiscal Year; and (3) to conduct such other business as may be necessary for the annual organizational and reorganization of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be published in the "ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE" be posted on the bulletin board in the Asbury Park City Hall, Asbury Park, New Jersey, and that a copy of this resolution be filed with the City Clerk of the City of Asbury Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Asbury Park Press, the Courier, the City News and the Asbury Park City Hall, Asbury Park, New Jersey, at least seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution and any other order required by said law shall be mailed to any person who requests it and who has paid a fee of \$2.00.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Asbury Park, on the 14th day of April, 1997.

CLAUDIA WHEELEY, SECRETARY

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ASBURY PARK
1000 1/2 THIRD AVENUE
ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY 07712

Fiscal Year Ending 3/31/98
ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

APRIL 14, 1997

MAY 12, 1997

JUNE 9, 1997

JULY 14, 1997

AUGUST 11, 1997

SEPTEMBER 8, 1997

OCTOBER 10, 1997

NOVEMBER 16, 1997

DECEMBER 8, 1997

JANUARY 12, 1998

FEBRUARY 9, 1998

MARCH 5, 1998

LEGAL NOTICE

ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
110 SOUTH GROVE STREET
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07041

Please take notice that the Essex County Board of Taxation will conduct appeals hearings and render judgments May 5, 1997 through May 30, 1997, with the exception of May 22nd and May 26th, 1997 between 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

George F. Liberti, Tax Administrator \$26.00

ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION
110 South Grove Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07018

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES

May 1, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Regularization Meeting

June 3, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

July 10, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

August 7, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

September 4, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

October 1, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

November 6, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

December 4, 1997 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

January 8, 1998 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

File Assessment Lists and Duplicates

March 3, 1998 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

March 5, 1998 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

April 2, 1998 - 9:30 a.m., Monthly Board Meeting

May 1, 1998 - 9:30 a.m., Regularization Meeting

George F. Liberti, CTA, IFAS

TAX ADMINISTRATOR

\$73.40

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR

FREE ACCOUNTING

The Housing Authority of the Township of Old Bridge is seeking proposals from Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) to provide services as the Authority's Free Accounting Service for the period commencing January 1, 1997 and terminating May 31, 1998.

CPAs submitting proposals to the RFP must be licensed in the State of New Jersey and must not be under sanction from HUD.

Parties interested in submitting a proposal in response to the RFP should contact the office at 909-721-5600, Ext. 6410

between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., weekdays and submit a detailed RFP, which will include full copies of the requirements of the proposal. Proposals must be sent to: Mr. Charles Johnson, Jr., MPA, Executive Director, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857.

Please mark the envelope "Proposal for Free Accounting Services". Deadline for Proposals is May 9, 1997. No Proposals will be considered after that date. \$31.20

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the Township of Old Bridge is seeking proposals from attorneys or law firms to serve as the Authority's General Legal Counsel for the period commencing June 1, 1997 and terminating May 31, 1998. Proposals will be made using qualifications factors with the corresponding relative weights.

Attorneys submitting proposals to the RFP must be licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey and must not be under sanction from HUD.

Parties interested in submitting a proposal in response to the RFP should contact the office at 909-721-5600, Ext. 6410 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., weekdays and submit a detailed RFP, which will include full copies of the requirements of the proposal. Proposals must be sent to: Mr. Charles Johnson, Jr., MPA, Executive Director, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857.

Please mark the envelope "Proposal for Legal Services". Deadline for Proposals is May 9, 1997. No Proposals will be considered after that date. \$54.60

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK
57 SUSSEX AVENUE, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07103

INVITATION FOR BIDS
BUSEXCURSIONS/COMMUNITY RELATIONS
L.F.B. NO. 97-B1149/1

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK will receive sealed bids for Buses Excursions/Community Relations At Various Points at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 7, 1997 at 37 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07103, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid conference will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 1997 at 10:00 AM at 57 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07103. Bids and contract documents, including specifications are on file at the office of the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, CONTRACTS DIVISION, 57 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, (201) 430-2356. NHAP 97-B1149/1. All documents are to be submitted in triplicate (3).

A Bid Guarantee in the form of a certified check/money order or bank draft payable to the Housing Authority of the City of Newark, at the amount of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000). Dollars (NJ), in the amount of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000). Dollars (NJ).

NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
GARDEN STATE PARKWAY
WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority for:

A MINORITY BUSINESS SET ASIDE

PROCUREMENT

XEROGRAPHIC PAPER

ON MAY 21, 1997 AT 3:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed Bids will be received by the New Jersey Highway Authority from vendors

qualifying as New Jersey Minority Business Enterprises pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 1183, Chapter 482, N.J.S.A. 52:25-27. See Only Prospective Bidders for information and requirements and be qualified by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development may submit proposals.

Bids for the above will be received in the Division of Central Purchasing on the date(s) and time(s) specified above and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders are required to comply with requirements of P.L. 1183, Chapter 482.

Bid Forms, Specifications, and Terms and Conditions are on file in the Division of Central Purchasing, New Jersey Highway Authority, Garden State Parkway, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095 and may be obtained between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., weekdays.

ANGELA COLO
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL PURCHASING
NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

\$55.50

ACCOUNTANTS

ACCOUNTANTS

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shall be submitted with each bid. Bidders to submit a Bid Guarantee with the bid and must include copies of the bid. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1183, Chapter 482.

Bids shall be submitted to: Mr. Joe M. Matrone, Contracting Officer, NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY, 57 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07103. Bids shall be clearly marked for: BIDS - EXCURSIONS/COMMUNITY RELATIONS. Bid No. 97-B1149/1.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK will receive sealed bids for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of the bids without the consent of the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK. HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK. HANCOCKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NO BID SHALL BE WITHDRAWN FOR A PERIOD OF SIXTY (60) DAYS SUBSEQUENT TO THE OPENING OF THE BIDS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWARK

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HANCOCKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rally counters Summit for America's future

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

PHILADELPHIA—Not all who came to Philadelphia were there for the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. Huge numbers of activists from all over the country took to the streets in a march and rally in protest of the Summit, criticizing it as a push for volunteerism after the attacks on welfare reform and social programs that serve the poor.

The rally was sponsored by the National People's Campaign and brought out primarily progressive/left-wing groups such as Refuse and Resist! the Uhuru Movement, and the MOVE Organization. The most prominent issues that the rally centered on were the cuts in welfare and social programs, police brutality, and the case of Philadelphia journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is now on Death Row for the murder of a Philadelphia police

officer many believe he did not commit.

"I think it's significant because one of the things Refuse and Resist says is that it's all one attack," said Sister Kelly of Refuse and Resist! "The attacks on welfare, the attacks on the unions, the attacks on political prisoners and political dissent in general, the attacks on immigrants, it's all one attack from the same source."

Philadelphia itself has seen its share of strife in the past few years, most recently the racial tension coming from the Gray's Ferry area. Affiliated to lampposts and newspaper boxes along Arch Street were fluorescent green decals from the white supremacist organization National Alliance that warned against not having sex with blacks, interracial drug users, and blacks as a protection against AIDS. Rally participants scratched the decals away whenever they found them. Also present in the rally were a group

that protested the Summit, but on the grounds that volunteerism itself was a form of slavery. They also countered the other protesters by holding placards suggesting they should read a book by Libertarian heroine Ayn Rand, and were met with catcalls and offensive gestures.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, who was participating in the Summit and has been attacked for what has been viewed as him being part of the problem, says the rally participants' intentions are misdirected, pointing to the community organizations that he felt were more productive. "My recommendation to those who want to make a difference, you can picket but you're a lot better off getting involved in your community cause, think...one of the things I think we want to do and need to do is start working with these community based organizations and building new communities."



Former 1996 Workers World Party Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead, on microphone, speaks to fellow protesters from a truck leading march outside Presidents' Summit on Sunday.

Insurance protest at the Statehouse

continued from page one

ance agent, Clinton Robinson, whose insurance business in East Orange. He said that the major insurance companies didn't renew the right of agents in urban areas to write automobile policies in urban, inner city areas. "So our people have to go to agents in Bloomfield, South Orange and other suburban areas to get a policy written for them," Robinson said that they organized the Urban Insurance Agents and Brokers Association (out of my East Orange office) because of this insurance issue and what is happening in our urban areas. They started in September and have about 150 members across the state.

Robinson said they have put black insurance agents out of business, because people in urban areas have to go to white areas to get a policy. "I can't write any car insurance with a major company, so I can only write policies through the state's Personal Auto Insurance Association, which is only for drivers who have nine points or more, and a basic policy costs about \$200." He said look anyone selling car insurance in the urban areas, "I am transitioning from auto to life and property insurance, but it is very difficult."

Captain Loser of the International

Loser's Club, New York City, read a proclamation making New Jersey State Banking and Insurance Commissioner Lisa (Elizabeth) Randall an official club member. "Lisa is a loser for her failure to reduce car insurance rates, thereby satisfying the requirements and provisions of the International Loser's Club Inc." Captain Loser wearing a black military uniform with captain's bars on his shoulders and four stars on his chest ("which signifies that I am a four-star loser") led the crowd in a rousing chant of "Losers!"

Paul Pugliese, Long Branch, dressed only in a barrel with a headlight attached to the front, it told the

crowd. "If things don't change we are going to end up in a barrel like this in a few years." The crowd roared its approval. Bill Doyle, co-commentator on Radio Station 101.5 FM and rally emcee, led the crowd in shredding copies of their personal car insurance policies.

The rally ended at 2 p.m. and organizer Hyatt presented the three-foot high stack of petitions to Governor Whitman in her office. After the 20-minute meeting, she and Governor Whitman held a joint press conference.

Hyatt said, "I presented the 116,000 signatures to Governor Whitman and she expressed her interest in moving forward. I told her that we've heard it all and now we need to see it and feel it in our finances." Standing by a poster that had been prepared by the governor's staff which read, "End Automatic Rate Increases-End Surcharges-Stop unfair cancellations-Eliminate fraud" which are part of the governor's proposal, Hyatt continued, "It has to be a reality not words on a board. I signed a petition

and if I don't see a substantial decrease in insurance rates, I would not (vote) to elect her as governor. And five percent would not buy a vote."

Governor Whitman responding, said, "I am not going to do anything that I don't feel is good just for election. It is time that we do something, but I can't guarantee a five or ten percent decrease. I have teenage drivers and I do understand the problem." One person in the audience was heard to say, quietly, "This is the same old garbage!"

Summit message

Continued from page 1

senting her ailing husband, former President Ronald Reagan.

The Summit also brought many of America's most prominent politicians, community leaders, and entertainers, as well as the largest corporations to the City of Brotherly Love to hammer out a way to meet what they consider five fundamental resources to help young adults along the right path: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult, safe places and structured activities during school hours to learn and grow, a healthy start, a marketable skill through effective education, and an opportunity to give back through community service. They began with a kickoff ceremony at Marcus Foster Stadium and a volunteer service project in Germantown. General Powell, the Presidents and their wives took painbrush in hand to paint over graffiti on the walls in this poor area of Philadelphia. "It's an extension of a human to do manual labor side by side with people who are in need," said former President Jimmy Carter, who through Habitat for Humanity has been known for his volunteer work building low income housing.

Later that afternoon at the convention center where most of the events were taking place, a Young Leaders Press Conference was held with representatives of AmeriCorps, Newark Do Something, and other groups sitting on the stage with General Powell. Melrose Place star Andrew Shue, co-creator of Do Something, and other celebrities to announce commitments toward the national goal. Darryl Green of Newark Do Something was one of the youth who spoke to the General about the work he has done in his community and how his community coach Kenya Monser has been a positive mentor for them. "He taught us how to be young leaders," he said. "Now all the schools in Newark have coaches like Mr. Monser." Stephen Lenz, an alumnus of AmeriCorps, also spoke to the General about being a young leader. "As

a young leader and as a person who works with teenagers, I realize the importance of listening to our youth instilling a service ethic within them and providing them with service opportunities, and empowering them to become our future service leaders," she said. "And as a mentor I personally know the difference a caring adult can make in a child's life. And I'm pleased to be here with you today to make America's Promise a reality."

To a standing ovation, General Powell took the stage to give some remarks as well. He noted that one doesn't have to be an adult to be a role model, and that all one has to do is care. "That's what these young people are saying today," he said. "We will do that, we can do it, and we can intervene in the life of other young people if you will give us the chance, if you give us the resources if you will give us the access and if you will help us."

General Powell also spoke again to the non-partisanship that has come out of this Summit. "The question I am beginning to get—is there anything political in this? No. Well why isn't there? Because this is something all Americans can come together on. This has nothing to do with being a Republican or Democrat!" He expounded further by saying that this is something that all can do whether they are churches, or corporations contributing.

All around the center, there were booths and displays from a number of corporations making their contribution. AT&T had a booth that introduced the Internet to visitors. The local affiliate for NBC held a "FitFest" in one area providing health-oriented demonstrations and services. A blood drive was also being held here.

The spirit of coming together was a welcome one for many of the participants. "I think there's a national consensus that one, we have a desperate need to address the needs of kids, two, government can't fix the problems alone, neither can the private sector,

that we need the need the human resources that money can't buy, and that this is not a partisan issue or a racial issue, but geographical issue, a national issue," said the Rev. Buster Series of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Franklin. He also participated, along with the Presidents, the General, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson in The Presidents' Call to Action outside Independence Hall on Monday.

Nancy McCuller Executive Director of Big Sisters Philadelphia says that the Summit has been "really exciting" for the organization that provides mentors for young girls and, with over forty girls on their waiting list, hopes this will mean more volunteers for them. "One of the things I am most pleased about with this project is that it encourages people to donate their time, one to one, with another child, and I think if we donate our time we are going to become more connected with each other, and that's so much better than asking for people to donate money," she said.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, another participant in the Call to Action, also pledged to encourage businesses to be involved in the spirit of the Summit. "You have General Powell, President Bush, and President Carter, and you have governors such as myself and others who are going to be very involved in fund raising and encouraging the corporate community to direct some of these resources in programs that work," he said, saying that is one of the things that the Community Partnership in Safe Children does.

Organizers plan to sustain the mission of the Summit through the year 2000 and beyond, encouraging a nationwide grassroots effort to "dramatically increase the number of individuals and organizations pledging time, talent and resources to ensure that every child has access to the resources needed for a healthy, fulfilling and productive life," according to a statement in a Summit guidebook.

ty and works in the Statehouse," said Guttenkuhn, referring to Whitman.

After the two votes were held, several persons stood to make remarks, and many were candidates for city and state offices. Golda D. Harris, a registered Democrat who is running as an independent for mayor, told the group that the impeachment should be looked upon as a learning experience. "Being part of a committee protected you for a very long time against what Jerry Green was actually doing," she said, "and now Plainfield's having a voice." Also in the first vote Ben Auletta, Sr., who is running for Green's seat in the State Assembly and wanted to introduce himself to Plainfield residents.

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Democratic committee vote questionable

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2 screening process.

Wolcott also spoke to the issue, saying that they have contacted Rick Thigpen, the second chairperson of the New Jersey Democratic Party, and according to Wolcott, they were told that the meeting's outcome will be reviewed by Dixon, saying that he will take Guttenkuhn's comments under advisement, also said that if this is not the right way, they will press on until they find the way. "Whatever needs to be done to get the accountability, but we don't, whatever it is," he said. Saying he is a friend of Green's, he said this is something he did not want to do, but felt he had no choice since

Green would not address the issue and speak to the charges with anyone.

"I'm asking all of you together in here, from here on in we have to start working together in getting things done in the City of Plainfield," Wolcott said upon his election, a sentiment echoed by Agurs Cathcart and shared by Guttenkuhn, who while also noting that the only contention was about the legality of the meeting and nothing more, said that the main focus for all of them should be making sure Gov. Christie Whitman loses her bid for reelection. "A lot of problems that Plainfield has had in the last three years have not been caused by anybody who lives in Plainfield, but by somebody who lives in Somerset Coun-

ty and works in the Statehouse," said Guttenkuhn, referring to Whitman.

After the two votes were held, several persons stood to make remarks, and many were candidates for city and state offices. Golda D. Harris, a registered Democrat who is running as an independent for mayor, told the group that the impeachment should be looked upon as a learning experience. "Being part of a committee protected you for a very long time against what Jerry Green was actually doing," she said, "and now Plainfield's having a voice." Also in the first vote Ben Auletta, Sr., who is running for Green's seat in the State Assembly and wanted to introduce himself to Plainfield residents.